

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 06912 232014Z

64

ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-05

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R 231910Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4596

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, BL

SUBJ: COTTON: MIN AG ASKS USG ASSISTANCE

REF: LA PAZ A-126, JUNE 28, 1974

1. MIN AG, COL NATUSCH, ASKED AMBASSADOR TO HELP FIND BUYERS FOR 30,000 BALES OF BOLIVIAN COTTON FROM 73/74 CROP THAT STILL REMAINS UNSOLD. MIN AG ALLUDED TO FAILURE TO SELL AS DUE EFFECTS OF COOK AND RALLI "BLACK LISTING" OF BOLIVIAN COTTON LAST YEAR. MIN AG STATED BOLIVIAN COTTON GROWERS ASSOCIATION (ADEPA) COULD NOT FIND BUYERS AT ANY PRICE.

2. EMBOFFS INQUIRED INTO PROBLEM OF UNSOLD COTTON DURING RECENT VISITS TO SANTA CRUZ AND FOUND OPINION WIDESPREAD AMONG THOSE ENGAGED IN PRODUCING, FINANCING AND SELLING COTTON THAT DISCOUNT FROM WORLD PRICES ON BOLIVIAN COTTON NOW MUCH GREATER AND DUE TO COTTON CONTRACT PROBLEM OF LAST YEAR. WE ASSUME THERE ARE BUYERS AT SOME PRICE, BUT THAT PRICE UNACCEPTABLY LOW TO THOSE STILL HOLDING COTTON.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF OUTCOME 1973 COTTON PROBLEM, SUGGEST DEPARTMENT ASK COOK FOR ITS VIEW OF CURRENT BOLIVIAN SALES PROBLEM INCLUDING WHETHER PUNITIVE DISCOUNT IS BEING APPLIED TO BOLIVIAN COTTON, AT WHAT PRICE BOLIVIA MIGHT EXPECT TO SELL REMAINING COTTON AND WHETHER COOK CAN SUGGEST POSSIBLE BUYERS. REFAIR PROVIDES MOST RECENT BACKGROUND ON BOLIVIAN COTTON. SINCE
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REQUEST MADE TO AMBASSADOR IS FROM MINAG WHO WAS EXTREMELY HELPFUL

IN HELPING RESOLVE NASTY COTTON CONTRACT PROBLEM IN 1973 WE FEEL
THAT IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO DO AS MUCH AS WE CAN TO ASSIST WITH
PRESENT MARKETING PROBLEM. SUGGESTIONS WHICH MIGHT HELP BOLIVIA
WOULD ALSO BE WELCOME.
STEDMAN

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Disposition Authority: shawdg
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Disposition Reason:
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